THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Air India has been working at its fleet plan for sometime, but have so far not taken any further steps.

Procurement of equipments by AAI

†1229. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of equipments related to air traffic control and communication purchased by Airports Authority of India during the last three years;

(b) the cost of these equipments together with the details of each of these equipments;

(c) the reasons for purchase of these equipments; and

(d) whether any action has been taken against the persons responsible for this unnecessary purchase and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The details regarding number of communication equipment, particulars and their cost purchased by Airports Authority of India (AAI) in connection with Air Traffic Control during the last three years are as under:—

1. 150 Nos. Very High Frequency Sets—Rs. 9.24 crores
2. 315 Nos. Walkie-Talkie Sets—Rs. 0.42 crores
3. 818 Nos. Head Sets—Rs. 1.02 crores
4. 60 Nos. Very High Frequency Manpack Sets—Rs. 0.20 crores
5. 4 Nos. High Frequency Single Side Band trans Receiver— Rs. 0.12 crores
6. 75 Nos. High Frequency Receivers—Rs. 2.00 crores
7. 236 Nos. Very High Frequency, Frequency Modulation. Hand Set—Rs. 0.33 crores
8. 13 Nos. Portable Sattelite Phone—Rs. 0.30 crores

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) The purchase of various equipment is a regular business requirement as replacement of wornout and obsolete ones.

(d) No unnecessary purchase has been made.

Impact of open Sky Policy on lA

1230. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) wether it is a fact that the new Open Sky Policy will throw the Indian Airlines again in disarray as the Indian Airlines is almost limping back to earn a small profit this year;

(b) the average age of the aircrafts specially those plying to the North-Eastern sector;

(c) whether Government have any plan to phase-out the aged and almost vintage aircrafts; and

(d) if so, whether Government have plans to replace the existing fleet with the new aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) There is no change in the domestic air transport policy. Indian Airlines continues to be the market leader.

(b) No specific aircraft as such are dedicated to operate in the North Eastern sector. The average age of aircraft of the domestic airlines are as follows:—

Indian Airlines:	12.8 years
Jet Airways:	3.8 years
Sahara Airlines:	11.8 years

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines has plans to phase out/replace the aged aircraft in its fleet.

Labour Relations Committee in Air India

1231. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Labour Relations Committee in Air India Ltd., is functioning as per the provision in the Air Corporation Repeal Act under Section 8(5);

(b) whether it is a fact that after Repeal of Corporation Act 1953,